



# The House Democratic Caucus

## A Blueprint for the 2005-2006 Legislature

**Jim Amann**

*Speaker of the House*

**Chris Donovan**

*Majority Leader of the House*

# Healthcare:

***Working to ensure that all Connecticut Citizens have access to high quality, affordable healthcare***

- Emphasis on affordable health insurance and modifications to HUSKY and other programs to ensure that all Connecticut citizens have proper coverage
- Putting patients first by ensuring medical decisions are made by patients and their health care providers
- Focus on promoting greater access to affordable prescription medications through the preservation of ConnPACE and modifications to respond to changing federal laws
- Renewed efforts to assure access to quality health care providers through legislative reforms including controlling the costs of malpractice insurance
- Proper funding for long term care and other life-care programs for Connecticut citizens
- Making CT a leader on stem cell research

# Education:

## *Preserving and expanding educational opportunities*

- Fulfill Connecticut's responsibility to provide sufficient funding to ensure all children have access to outstanding schools, teachers and education programs. Strengthening funding formulas to provide greater fairness and equity
- Continue to promote school readiness through universal pre-k, all day kindergarten and after-school programs
- Invest in innovative programs that support educational success including magnet schools and voluntary regional approaches to expanding educational opportunities
- Develop fair solutions to help towns deal with the costs of providing special education services
- Maintain Connecticut's commitment to quality higher education through greater student financial aid and support for public colleges and universities

# Budget and Taxes:

***A fair, honest and balanced biennial budget that collects revenues and provides vital services fairly, efficiently and effectively***

- A commitment to preserve, and where appropriate, expand vital services so that Connecticut's citizens can live better and more fulfilling lives with an ongoing emphasis on supporting cost-effective, community-based services
- Significant new initiatives to maximize federal reimbursements and ensure that more of Connecticut's federal tax dollars are returned to support critical programs and services here at home
- An emphasis on creating fairness in Connecticut's tax code through review of existing policies and tax expenditures, and where necessary, revisions to the sales tax, corporate tax and state income tax to assure that corporations and citizens are paying their fair share

# **Transportation and Economic Development:**

## ***Strengthening Connecticut's economy***

- A recognition that transportation issues are negatively impacting the quality of life for many Connecticut citizens and limiting economic opportunities for our State.
- A commitment to make transportation issues a top priority with initiatives to promote rail and mass transit, adopt smart growth strategies, ensure the use of cleaner cars, limit the negative impact from diesel pollution and use federal and state transportation dollars more wisely when dealing with existing and future transportation challenges.
- Promote a healthier economic environment through better utilization of economic development resources and tax policies, including tax expenditures as a way to preserve and recruit jobs to Connecticut while ensuring employees are paid fair wages and benefits.

# **Ethics and Accountability:**

***Providing Connecticut with an honest,  
effective and accountable state government***

- Ethics and State Contract Reform.
- Efficiency Initiatives.
- Holding State Government and Government Officials Accountable.
- Election and Campaign Finance Reform.